

The Leading Edge

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IMA Assigned to 75 ABW/HC, Hill AFB, Utah

As an IMA assigned to 75 ABW/HC, Hill AFB, Utah I was involuntarily recalled to active duty at the end of October 2001. I reported to Travis AFB on 1 Nov for what was scheduled to be a 1-year tour at Travis. The Hill chapel staff was informed of upcoming deployments and therefore requested to have me return to Hill. The request was made particularly because MSgt Steven Holloway, NCOIC, Chapel Support as well as SSgt Morse were scheduled to deploy, and I was specifically trained to serve as NCOIC in the absence of the NCOIC, Chapel Support.

MSgt Holloway had spent numerous hours in training with me in the event that he was deployed. Some particular areas that were of great importance included readiness and mobility. In addition, I had been involved in the Deployment Process Working Group (DPWG), and received refresher training as a Unit Deployment Manager (UDM). MSgt Holloway provided me with training on current practices/processes in the inspection of chaplain fund accounting records. I was also given extensive training on appropriated fund management. In essence, the chapel NCOIC provided me with the necessary tools to be the NCOIC of the chapel.

Since MSgt Holloway's deployment, I have been the NCOIC, Chapel Support. This occurred during the same time, as another enlisted member was PCSing; a unit reservist who is new to the career field came to Hill to backfill; and the uncertainty as to the career (re-enlist or separate) of an enlisted member. I was also faced with a crucial role in the preparation for an upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection; I had to draw upon experiences and knowledge to help the chapel division to be ready for this inspection. Furthermore, the Easter holiday season was upon us, I led the support staff, ensuring that adequate support was given to the worship services. Over 1500 people worshipped at the Hill AFB chapel during the Easter weekend. Following Easter Weekend, I had to utilize the training that was provided to me and my own readiness experiences to serve as Exercise Evaluation Team (EET) member for a Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE), developing scenarios to serve as training for those that would be responding to the exercise. This particular exercise involved both on and off base personnel, adding to the importance of adequate training.

Not only have I been able to draw upon my military training, but also my civilian training/education in Human Resources. This has aided in the training of a newly assigned SrA, a unit reservist TSgt with a 3 level, and an active duty SrA, of whom have a total of 3 1/2 years experience in the career field. Thanks to the training... which is ongoing, I have been able to function at the capacity/level that is necessary to meet the daily demands of a base chapel operation.

Training of IMAs is essential, and should be of top priority as sighted above. In today's total force, one is expected to be trained and ready when called upon. As the boy scouts motto statesone should "always be prepared" the same is to be true for our IMAs.